PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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| Applicant's or agent's file reference 2003P07733WO | FOR FURTHER ACTION | R ACTION See Form PCT/IPEA/416 | | | | | | |
| International application No. | International filing date (day) | /month/year) Priority date (day/mon | nth/year) | | | | | |
| PCT/EP2004/050980 | 01.06.2004 | 30.06.200 | 3 | | | | | |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC | | | | | | | | |
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| Applicant | | | | | | | | |
| SIEMENS AKTIENGESELLS | SCHAFT | | | | | | | |
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| under Article 35 and transmitted to th | ne applicant according to Articl | | ry Examining Authority | | | | | |
| 2. This REPORT consists of a total of | 6 | sheets, including this cover sheet. | | | | | | |
| 3. This report is also accompanied by A | | | | | | | | |
| | l to the International Bureau) a | total of 6 | sheets, as follows: | | | | | |
| sheets of the descrip | ption, claims and/or drawings v | which have been amended and are the ba | sis for this report and/or | | | | | |
| sneets of the descrip sheets containing re Instructions). | ectifications authorized by this | Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 60 | 07 of the Administrative | | | | | |
| sheets which supers | sede earlier sheets, but which t | this Authority considers contain an amen | dment that goes beyond | | | | | |
| the disclosure in the | e international application as | filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. | I and the Supplemental | | | | | |
| | P | to time and much so the same | ,, | | | | | |
| b (sent to the International | Bureau only) a total of (indicate | te type and number of electronic carrier(s | on. | | | | | |
| | | | nce listing and/or tables | | | | | |
| related thereto, in computer Section 802 of the Adminis | | ated in the Supplemental Box Relating to | o Sequence Listing (see | | | | | |
| 4. This report contains indications relati | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Box No. I Basis of the | e report | | | | | | | |
| Box No. II Priority | | | | | | | | |
| Box No. III Non-estable | ishment of opinion with regard | d to novelty, inventive step and industrial | applicability | | | | | |
| | ity of invention | | | | | | | |
| | • | with regard to novelty, inventive step or in | dustrial applicability; | | | | | |
| citations an | nd explanations supporting such | | . | | | | | |
| Box No. VI Certain doc | cuments cited | | | | | | | |
| Box No. VII Certain def | fects in the international applica | ation | | | | | | |
| Box No. VIII Certain obs | Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application | | | | | | | |
| Date of submission of the demand | | of completion of this report | | | | | | |
| 2 20 Or suchussion of the delibing | Date | | | | | | | |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP | | wized officer | | | | | | |
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Translation

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/050980

| Box | No. I | Basis of the report | | | | | | |
|-----|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| 1. | | n regard to the language, this report is based on the internation cated under this item. | nal application in the language in v | which it was filed, unless otherwise | | | | |
| | This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of: | | | | | | | |
| | | international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)) | | | | | | |
| | | publication of the international application (Rule 12.4) | | | | | | |
| | | international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/o | | hoote which have been firming of an efficiency | | | | |
| 2. | recei | n regard to the elements of the international application, this is iving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are report): the international application as originally filed/furnished the description: | icport is oased on (<i>replacement s</i> . e referred to in this report as "or | riginally filed" and are not annexed to | | | | |
| | | pages <u>4-7</u> | | as originally filed/furnished 14.02.2005 with letter | | | | |
| | | pages* 1-3,3a | received by this Authority on | of 09.02.2005 | | | | |
| | | pages* | received by this Authority on | | | | | |
| | \boxtimes | the claims: | | | | | | |
| | | nos. | | as originally filed/furnished | | | | |
| | | nos.* | as amended (together | r with any statement) under Article 19 14.02.2005 with letter | | | | |
| | | nos.* 1-7 | received by this Authority on | of 09.02.2005 | | | | |
| | | nos.* | received by this Authority on | | | | | |
| | \boxtimes | the drawings: | | | | | | |
| | | sheets 1/2-2/2 | | as originally filed/furnished | | | | |
| | | sheets* | received by this Authority on | | | | | |
| | | sheets* | | | | | | |
| | | a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplem | | isting. | | | | |
| 3. | \boxtimes | The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: | | | | | | |
|] | الحبي | the description, pages | | | | | | |
| | | the claims, nos. 8 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): | | | | | | |
| 4. | \boxtimes | | lments annexed to this report and led, as indicated in the Supplement | l listed below had not been made, since tal Box (Rule 70.2(c)). | | | | |
| | | the description, pages 2 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | the drawings, sheets/figs | | | | | | |
| | | the sequence listing (specify): | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | If it | tem 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "sup | - | | | | | |

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/050980

| Box | Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement | | | | |
|-----|--|--------|-----|-----|--|
| 1. | Statement | | | | |
| | Novelty (N) | Claims | 1-7 | YES | |
| | | Claims | | NO | |
| | Inventive step (IS) | Claims | 1-7 | YES | |
| | | Claims | | NO | |
| | Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims | 1-7 | YES | |
| | | Claims | | NO | |
| | | | | | |

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: WO-A-03039929

Claim 1

Document D1 is considered the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1 and discloses (the references between parentheses refer to that document):

a method that is suitable for eliminating erroneous messages in monitoring systems for electronic appliances (page 2, lines 21-26, page 3, lines 18-26), in particular for sensor circuits in motor vehicles (page 6, line 35 - page 7, line 9), in which error messages result in the incrementation of a counter (page 2, lines 27-35, page 7, lines 21-27), with an alarm (page 14, line 35 - page 15, line 5) being triggered only when a predetermined position on the counter is reached (page 2, lines 27-35).

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/050980

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

The subject matter of claim 1 thus differs from the known method in that, using a programme executed by a processor, error messages are generated when one of the input variables to be monitored exceeds the limit value defined therefor, the counter reading being checked to see whether at least one error message has been generated and, when appropriate, the input variable in question being subjected early to a further check.

The subject matter of claim 1 is thus novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

The present invention can therefore be considered to address the problem of guaranteeing more rapid triggering of the alarm when dealing with a plurality of input variables.

The solution to this problem as proposed in claim 1 of the present application involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)) for the following reasons: that the counter reading is checked to see whether at least one error message has been generated and, when appropriate, the input variable in question is subjected early to a further check means that a variable for which an error message has already been generated is preferably monitored early. This results in a substantial increase in the speed at which the alarm is triggered in comparison with the method disclosed in document D1.

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/050980

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

No such method is disclosed or suggested by the available prior art.

Claims 2-6

Claims 2-6 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore likewise meet the PCT requirements for novelty (PCT Article 33(2)) and inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

Claim 7

The subject matter of claim 7 concerns an arrangement corresponding to the subject matter of claim 1. Claim 7 therefore also meets the PCT requirements for novelty (PCT Article 33(2)) and inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/050980

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Box I

Basis of the report

The amendments submitted with the letter of 9 February 2005 introduce substantive matter which, contrary to PCT Article 34(2)(b), goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed. The amendments are as follows: further details relating to the problems to be solved (page 2, lines 12 and 13 of the description) which have no basis in the original application.